



Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

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Home Fire Safety Checklist



A residential fire happens every half hour in Ohio. How safe is your home from fire? To determine the safety of your home from fire hazards, study these questions with your family. Every "yes" answer indicates a positive fire safety situation. However, every "no" answer points to a fire hazard that needs to be corrected.

Heating and Cooking Hazards

YES NO

- If you use oil heat or gas heat, is the equipment listed by the proper laboratories, such as UL or the American Gas Association? YES NO
- Before the heating season begins, do you have your heating system inspected and serviced? YES NO
- If you have a wood burning stove, has it been installed properly according to the manufacturer's instructions? YES NO
- Do you burn seasoned wood and is it stored in the proper place? YES NO
- Are all vent connectors and flue pipes that pass through attics, floors, ceilings and walls properly installed? YES NO
- Do you clean your chimney at least once a year? (More often if it is used regularly) YES NO
- Is your kitchen stove, including the oven and the broiler, kept clean of grease? YES NO
- Do all portable heaters in your home bear the label of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or another recognized safety testing agency? YES NO
- When you use a portable heater, is it placed well away from any and all combustible materials? YES NO
- Do you always turn off the portable heater when you go to bed? YES NO
- Do you always refill the fuel tank of your kerosene heater outdoors? YES NO
- Do you only use portable kerosene heaters outside or in well-ventilated areas? YES NO
- Do you make sure that the fuel is not contaminated prior to using it in your kerosene heater? YES NO
- Has everyone in the family been warned never to use any flammable liquids to start a fire in the stove, fireplace or furnace? YES NO

Heating and Cooking Hazards (continued)

YES NO

- Is your inside basement door at the head of the stairs properly fitted and kept closed at night? YES NO
 - Is every fireplace equipped with a sturdy metal fire screen? YES NO
- ### Matches/Lighters, Smoking and Candle Hazards
- YES NO
- Do you keep matches and lighters away from sources of heat? YES NO
 - Do you make sure matches and smoking materials are out before disposing of them? YES NO
 - Do you have plenty of large, noncombustible ash trays in every room? YES NO
 - Is "No Smoking in Bed" a rule in your home? YES NO
 - Do you discard your smoking materials in ash trays outside to avoid mulch fires? YES NO
 - Do you extinguish candles when you leave the area? YES NO
 - Do you set candles only on noncombustible surfaces? YES NO
 - Do you leave plenty of space around burning candles, well away from combustible materials? YES NO
 - Do you keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children? YES NO
 - Do you turn oxygen off and leave the room before smoking? Smoking on oxygen can ignite anything combustible quickly. YES NO

Electrical Hazards

YES NO

- Do you have qualified electricians install or extend your wiring? YES NO
- When you buy electrical equipment and appliances, do you always look for the UL label of Underwriters Laboratories Inc.? YES NO

Electrical Hazards *(continued)* YES NO

- Are there enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords?
- Are there proper heat controls on your electric iron and all electrical appliances used for cooking?
- Do you have adequate circuit breakers or fuses for the equipment used in your home?
- Are all extension cords of the right size, in the open, not under rugs or through partitions or openings, and are they for temporary use only?
- Is there adequate wiring in all rooms for electronics?
- Are extension cords the correct size (wire gauge, electrical load, length)? They should be for portable equipment only.
- Are areas in and around the building kept free from accumulated packing materials, paper and other combustible materials?
- Are exits, stairways and hallways clutter-free at all times?
- Are all spills of flammable or combustible liquids or hazardous materials cleaned up promptly?

Housekeeping Hazard YES NO

- Do you keep your basement, closets and attic clear of rags, papers and other combustible materials?
- When you store paint, varnish, and other items, do you keep the containers tightly closed?
- Has everyone in your family been warned never to use gasoline or other flammable liquids to clean clothes, furnishings or floors?
- Do you clean the lint filter after every use of the dryer?
- Do you inspect and clear the inside of the dryer vent exhaust tubing at least twice a year?
- Do you vacuum and dust your smoke alarms?

Yard and Garage Hazards YES NO

- Do you keep your yard cleaned of leaves, debris and combustible rubbish?
- When you keep gasoline for use in a power mower or outboard motor, is it stored in a strong, clearly labeled red gasoline safety-type can?

Yard and Garage Hazards *(continued)* YES NO

- If your garage is attached to the house, is it separated by a closed, fire-retardent door?

Smoke Alarms YES NO

- Do you have a smoke alarm installed on every level of your home and in sleeping areas?
- Do you test your smoke alarm monthly to be certain it is always working?
- Do you replace the batteries in the smoke alarms twice a year at the time change?
- Have you replaced your smoke alarm when it is 10 years old or older?

Especially for Parents YES NO

- Are you careful never to leave children alone in a room with a portable heater or wood stove?
- Do you leave a responsible person with your children when you go out, even for a little while?
- When you employ babysitters, do you instruct them carefully on what to do in case of a fire?
- Do your children know their address?
- IMPORTANT:** A child learns by example as well as by instruction. Do you always demonstrate fire safe practices around your children?

In Case of Fire YES NO

- Do you know the telephone number of your fire department or when and how to use 911?
- Do you know how to report a fire?
- Is there an extinguisher easily accessible in your kitchen and do you know how to use it?
- Do you have a home escape plan with at least two ways out of every room?
- Have you practiced your home escape plan by holding fire drills during the day and night?
- Have you included caregivers in your home escape?
- Do you have an agreed upon meeting place?



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